**Spring Term 2021-2022 Year 5 Parent Newsletter**

Welcome to the spring term in Year 5. Firstly, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year; we hope that you and the children had a good break over the holidays. Thank you very much for your generosity at Christmas time – the cards and gifts were greatly appreciated.

Children should continue to follow the rules that were set at the beginning of the school year and respect the school’s ethos and mission statement. Children have been working hard to respect these rules.

During this term in Literacy we will be reading Wonder. We will be reading chapters weekly, focusing on developing a full understanding of the book. We will continue with our Big Writes, which children are making great progress in. These will be followed up with SPAG lessons, which children will use to up-level their own paragraphs. It is all about editing to produce a final piece of writing that the children have worked on and included their weekly learning.

In Numeracy, we will be using the objectives set out in the 2014 Curriculum. We will be focusing on fractions (including decimals and percentages), measurement and statistics this term. We ask that you encourage your children to learn and know their multiplication tables as well as the inverse. This is extremely important.

The topic through which Religious Education will be taught this half term is Sacramental People. They will be able to make links between religious stories and beliefs and explain their understanding of religious sources, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences. The children will begin to see that God is present everything in everything we do. The children will attend regular masses which you are most welcome to attend.

In Topic, we will be studying North and South America. We will be exploring the physical features and describing the geographical location of both. Children will be expanding mapping skills, using atlases to identify mountainous areas, major rivers and make comparisons.

The science topics we will be exploring are Animals including humans and Living things and their habitats. Children will take part in a range of investigations to support their understanding of the subject. There may be extra Science homework given to help with these areas.

PE lessons are scheduled on Tuesday with Non-Stop Action. We will also be completing PE lessons led by the class teacher. Hair should be tied back and earrings should not be worn on these days. Please arrange for your child to have a complete and correct P.E. kit in school and ensure that all items are clearly labelled with their name in the correct school PE bag. PE kits cannot be shared or borrowed from friends or siblings.

We will continue using the Thinking Skills: Thinking Hats and Habits of Mind, which are incorporated in all lessons. These give children the opportunity to think about different areas of the curriculum focusing on particular channels of thinking. Please encourage your child to discuss how these are used to help them in their learning.

Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and should be completed and returned to school the following Monday. If you feel that there is a problem, please write a comment on the front of the homework booklet.

Please ensure that your child continues to read at least 5 times a week for at least 20 minutes and that an adult has heard them. Their reading record should be signed each night and returned to school each day. Every child’s reading record will be checked every Wednesday. Additionally, please try to read to your child as this will help to foster a love of reading.

Please continue to send in boxes of tissues for the children to use throughout the term. Thank you to those parents who have already sent in tissues last term.

We hope that your child will have an enjoyable term. Meanwhile, should you have any concerns regarding your child, please feel free to speak to me any time after school.

Miss Mullahy and Miss McAuley